GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5652
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015
REVISION IN NORMS FOR DISASTER RELIEF
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently issued revised norms for calamity relief with respect to Central notified disasters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has introduced any measure to simplify the procedure in granting and releasing funds to the State Governments under the National Disaster Response Fund and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether 10 per cent of the calamity relief funds are given to the State Governments for dealing with local disasters; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the measure taken to improve capacity building for effective preparedness and response to natural disasters?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (e) Yes Madam. In this context, it is mentioned that the revision of the list of items and norms of assistance, is reviewed normally after the award of successive Finance Commissions. Taking into account various factors including the price rise, the Government of India issued order on revised items and norms of assistance under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) on 8th April 2015. These norms are available on the Ministry of Home Affairs website: www.ndmindia.nic.in.

With regard to 10 percent of the calamity related funds, it is stated that the 14th Finance Commission has considered that need for flexibility in regard to state-specific disasters and recommended that expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims of State-specific disasters within the local context in the State, which are not included in the notified list of disasters eligible for assistance from SDRF/ NDRF, can be met from SDRF within the limit of 10% of the annual fund allocation of the SDRF. The flexibility is to be applicable only after the State has formally listed the disasters for inclusion and notified transparent norms and guidelines with a clear procedure for identification of the beneficiaries for disaster relief for such local disasters, with the approval of the State Executive Committee.

The State Governments are required to provide relief from their own resources, to the people affected due to other than approved natural disasters as per their relief codes/ manual. Financial assistance under SDRF/ NDRF in the wake of natural disasters is by way of relief and is not for compensation of loss as suffered. Additional expenditure, if any, incurred over and above or on other than approved items/ norms, is required to be met by the States from their own resources and not from SDRF/ NDRF.

With regard to effective preparedness and response, it is informed that there are institutional mechanisms at the National and State level for effective management of natural disasters. In order to strengthen the existing disaster management system, the Disaster Management Act, 2005 was enacted and notified on December 26, 2005. The Act provides for institutional mechanisms for drawing up and monitoring the implementation of the disaster management plans, which includes holistic, coordinated, and prompt response to any calamity situation in the country and ensures measures by various wings of Government for prevention, mitigation and for minimizing the effects of calamities. Further, the strengthening of the disaster management is a continuing process of the governance. The measures as taken by the Government of India and the State Governments are expected to improve the existing disaster management practices including the preparedness, mitigation & control and are further expected to improve/ enhance the preparedness & response mechanism to deal with natural disasters more effectively and efficiently.